REMARKS

This Amendment is being filed concurrently with a Request for Continued Examination (RCE). The Office Action dated December 17, 2005, stated that Claims 22-24, 26, 28-34, 36 and 37 have been allowed, and that Claims 3, 6, 7, 11 and 21 contain allowable subject matter. To further the prosecution of the present application, Claims 2, 3, 11-13, 21, 25, 27, 35, and 38-40 have been canceled, Claims 6 and 7 have been rewritten into independent form, and Claims 1, 10, and 14 have been amended to include the subject matter of allowable Claims 3 (and Claim 2 from which Claim 3 depended), 11, and 21, respectively. Therefore, Claims 1, 4-10, 14-24, 26, 28-34, 36, and 37 are pending in the present application and are believed to in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing amendments and remarks, applicants assert that the claims of the present application are in condition for allowance. Therefore, applicants respectfully request early and favorable action. If any further questions remain, the Examiner is invited to telephone applicants' attorney at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service in a sealed envelope as first class mail with postage thereon fully prepaid and addressed to Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the below date.

Data

June 17, 2005

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